



**Kingston Conservation Advisory Council
Monthly Meeting, City Hall Conference Room 1
Minutes**

Date: July 14, 2015 6:30-8:30pm

Council Members: Julie Noble (Chair), Emilie Hauser (Vice-Chair), Kevin McEvoy (Secretary).
Elizabeth Broad, Jean Jacobs (unable to attend), Lynn Johnson, Casey Schwarz
Guest: Lorraine Farina

- I. Welcome Guests and Public Comment:** The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 6:32PM. There was no public comment at this time however Lorraine provided the Council with information and comment during the Air Quality discussion later in the meeting under New Business.
- II. Review and Approval June 2015 Meeting Minutes:** Upon motion made by Casey and seconded by Lynn, the Council members present unanimously approved the minutes to the last meeting as amended.

III. Old Business

a. Natural Resources Inventory (NRI)

- i. **Conference Call:** Matthew Akin, NRI Contractor in partnership with Kingston Land Trust provided an update and answered questions from Council members concerning the NRI mapping via conference call. Matt has a new computer and has rebuilt the database for each map. Maps labeled Series 1, 2 & 3 have been sent to an uploaded drive for comment and edit. The total number of maps when done will likely be about 18 or 19. The CAC will devote the August meeting to the full NRI maps using a screen and laptop. CAC members available will meet Matt at 4PM August 11 at the Andy Murphy for a City tour and site visits followed by dinner.
- ii. **Public Input Meeting Planning:** August 11 meeting was discussed as a possible public meeting accepting comment especially if Laura Heady is available. The goal of the session would be to get feedback on the maps that exist and identify any gaps in mapping. However since the NRI is not yet ready for a public presentation no motion was made nor resolution presented to devote the August meeting to such NRI presentation effectively postponing the public presentation and comment meeting.
- iii. **Ulster County Mapping:** Emilie reported that LiDAR Mapping (derived from Light Detection And Ranging or a combination of “light and “radar”, defined as is remotely sensed high-resolution elevation data collected by an airborne collection platform) in high resolution (1 meter), for land cover data and impervious surfaces is to be used by Ulster County.

b. Sustainable Resource Management Initiative (plastic bags, Styrofoam, etc)

- i. **Web page update:** Julie described updating the website as an educational approach regarding plastic bags, Styrofoam and recycling by presenting data, putting up goals and policy options including references to NYS DEC information and Climate Action Plan,
- ii. **Misc.:** Julie presented to the Council an example of a sign recently observed at Hannaford, regarding food waste. Betta discussed an anaerobic digester and energy cogeneration.
- iii. **Next steps:** Education and public outreach will be the focus of present efforts.

- c. **Solarize Community Endorsement:** Betta gave an introduction to the Solarize Community Endorsement invitation to organizations. Upon motion made by Casey and seconded by Kevin, the Council members present unanimously approved endorsing Solarize and completing the community endorsement form.

IV. New Business

a. **Air Quality Concerns from Burning Wood:**

- i. **Code and Study Review:** Lorraine Farina followed up on the June meeting with additional information and reviewed Kingston Code Section 135 and NYS Regulations §215 on Open Fires. Casey continued the discussion with a review of solid fuel burning and Kingston City Code Section 135 and the studies and related issues concerning particulates, CO₂ and climate change. The discussion continued among the Council and guest Lorraine Farina. Cleaner and more efficient devices that are available, particulate pollution as a serious public health problem, and substantial amounts of that particulate pollution that come from inefficient and outdated wood stoves, furnaces and boilers were discussed. It was mentioned that exposure to fine particulates can cause premature death and harmful effects to the cardiovascular system and that people with asthma, older adults, children, and low-income families are most vulnerable to fine particulates. It was reported that studies have also associated residential wood smoke with increased risk of cardiovascular mortality, and increased incidence of asthma and other respiratory problems, especially in young children. According to the EPA, residential wood combustion results in emissions of more than 345,000 tons of fine particulates throughout the country each year – making residential wood smoke the largest direct source of anthropogenic particulate pollution in the nation while residential wood smoke contributes an even larger share of particulate pollution in parts of the country like the Pacific Northwest, Midwest, and Northeast – including a quarter of wintertime PM pollution in parts of New Hampshire. The EPA also has stated that in addition to particulates, residential wood smoke is a major source of other dangerous pollutants including carbon monoxide (CO), volatile organic compounds and toxic air pollutants like benzene and formaldehyde. Residential wood smoke accounts for 44% of the nation's total emissions of polycyclic organic matter, and is responsible for 25% of all cancer risks from small sources of toxic air pollutants. Codes differentiate between home heating smoke and open fires. Link to Kingston City Code Section 135 is below together with links to US Environmental Agency regarding woodstoves:
<http://ecode360.com/12699897>
<http://www.epa.gov/burnwise/ordinances.html>
<http://www.epa.gov/burnwise/pdfs/strategies.pdf>
<http://www2.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2013-12/documents/ria-20140103.pdf>
- ii. **Next Steps:** As an action items, the Council will continue to gather ordinances with Kingston Building & Fire Safety Department to be invited to the September meeting. As action items, Lorraine will provide documentation, Casey will continue research and Kevin will research EPA and federal laws and regulations.

- b. **New Members:** The CAC is interested in finding two new members. Lauren Laibach and Caitlin Zinsley will be invited as guests.

V. Announcements/Communications

- a. **Hudsonia 2015 Urban Biodiversity Workshop:** Emilie mentioned the Hudsonia 2015 Urban Biodiversity Workshop, a full day event to be held August 24th at Teatown Lake Reservation, near Ossining. Topics to include: species of organisms which occur in cities, how to identify their habitats, and surveys of multiple groups of organisms needed to inform management decisions, the results of studies of urban biodiversity in the Northeast and analysis of habitat restoration in urban and industrial areas.
http://hudsonia.org/wpcontent/uploads/2015/07/Prof_workshop_urban_biodiversity_2015_jz_2.pdf
- b. **Invasive Species Week:** This is Invasive Species Awareness week, July 12-18. A brief discussion led to the topic of Mile-a-Minute vine which has been found at the Scenic Hudson

preserve at Shaupeneak Ridge in the Town of Esopus. Scenic Hudson gave a presentation on efforts to remove this invasive from Shaupeneak on July 13 (yesterday) at Esopus Town Hall.
<http://www.nyis.info/blog/>
<http://www.esopus.com/announcements/TownHallEsopusInvasivelflyer.pdf>

- c. **Greenline Community Design Workshop:** This workshop to be held on July 27 in two sessions 3-5Pm and 6-8PM will cover the Greenline, a City of Kingston project in partnership with the Kingston Land Trust. The Greenline design team of Saratoga Associates, KC Engineering and Hone Strategic will present preliminary design alternatives for the project for public comment.

VI. Reports

- a. **EMC Liaison** (*Emilie Hauser*): There was a discussion concerning a proposed solar array at Town of Ulster. It was reported that Dr. David Straus, Professor Emeritus of Chemistry at SUNY New Paltz and longtime member of the Gardiner Environmental Commission passed away June 11.
- b. **Planning Board Liaison** (*Casey Schwarz*): The new RUPCO Bowling Alley project which is anticipated to include green infrastructure features was discussed and is now before the planning board. Link to the RUPCO white paper on the project is below.
<http://www.rupco.org/wp-content/uploads/pdfs/Bowling-Alley-white-paper-FINAL.pdf>
- c. **Public Safety Liaison** (*Lynn Johnson*): Lynn reported briefly on the last committee meeting.
- d. **Comprehensive Plan Liaison** (*Julie Noble*): The Comprehensive Plan draft is still pending.
- e. **Solarize Kingston Liaison** (*Betta Broad*): Betta reported that the next Solarize Kingston Community Workshop will be held July 22 in the Council Chambers at City Hall.
http://kingston-ny.gov/content/8399/10927/11754.aspx?Calendar_ID=526
- f. **Climate Smart Kingston Commission** (*Julie Noble*): The next meeting to be held July 22. Emilie received a response from the Mayor but he has not appointed commissioners.

VII. Adjournment: At 8:39PM the meeting was adjourned by unanimous acclamation.

Mission: *Ensure the conservation of the City of Kingston's natural resources and the enhancement and protection of its environment while fostering unified action on environmental matters.*